

to behold and has made his experience a rewarding one.

Coming from a proud family history of military service, Lieutenant Martell's grandmother, Florence McCann, served in the U.S. Navy WAVES, or Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, during World War II. Mrs. McCann currently resides in Inverness, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, it is soldiers like Christopher Martell who volunteered to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear to their hearts. While brave men and women like Christopher serve in the name of freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget his sacrifice and commitment.

IN MEMORY OF DR. STERLING SMITH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give tribute to Dr. Sterling Smith, of Denton, Texas, for his lifelong commitment and contributions to his community and to education.

A native of Denton, Texas, Dr. Smith received his undergraduate degree from the University of North Texas in 1963. He also received a Master of Secondary Education degree from the University of Arizona and a Ph.D. in Science and Mathematics Education from the University of Texas at Austin. A 40-year veteran of public education and an avid mountain-climber, Dr. Smith died August 21st as the result of a fall while descending South Maroon Peak near Aspen, Colorado.

Dr. Smith began as a product of the Denton public school system and spent 30 of his 40 years as an educator teaching at the Texas Women's University in Denton. He worked closely for years with science teachers in North Texas and served for 2 years as president of the Denton High School Band Booster Club. He was active in the Boy Scouts for more than 40 years and volunteered as a teacher in the men's Sunday school class at First Baptist Church.

Most recently, Dr. Smith had been elected as the newest member of the Denton school board, his first elected office, and fellow members said he was already hard at work getting caught up on the complex issues associated with a modern public school system.

Dr. Smith was a lifelong champion of education and service to his community. I join in mourning the loss of Dr. Smith and extend my deepest sympathies to his friends and family. He will be deeply missed and his service and dedication will always be greatly appreciated.

APPOINTMENT OF ROGER GODELL AS COMMISSIONER OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Roger Godell on his appointment

as the new Commissioner of the National Football League (NFL). Godell's longtime dedication to the league and his genuine love for the game will assure him a long and successful tenure as league commissioner.

I was especially excited to see a Western New York native succeed Commissioner Tagliabue. As a lifelong Western New York resident and Representative from the 27th District of New York, I am pleased to know that as the new commissioner, Godell can relate to the small-market environment in his hometown region and to the great impact the presence of the Buffalo Bills has on our community.

The Buffalo Bills are one of the most respected franchises in the NFL, and our fans are extremely loyal. However, I am concerned that under the current collective bargaining agreement, the existence of the Bills in Buffalo may be in danger. The departure of the Bills would have a devastating impact in the area.

Without consideration of the unique economic situation concerning this storied franchise, and the great city that has enthusiastically supported the Bills for almost 50 years, the loss of this team to this city would, in effect, rip the heart and soul out of the NFL, and out of this great American city.

Provisions in the CBA that greatly affect Buffalo include stipulations regarding ticket sales falling below a certain level before revenue sharing participation kicks in. While the Bills have great community support, ticket prices are low because we are not a wealthy community; but under the stipulations, the Bills could sell-out all home games and still lose money and not be eligible for revenue sharing.

Additionally, including state and county monetary support in establishing franchise revenue would be extremely detrimental to the Bills and similar teams. For example, in Buffalo all game day stadium expenses are picked up by Erie County—the County reimburses the Bills for the cost of security, ticket takers, ushers, among other services—counting these contributions against the team could mean that the CBA is a de facto plan to annihilate small market franchises.

Finally, I am also highly concerned about the possibility that new team ownership would not be eligible for revenue sharing. The Bills have been lucky enough to remain under the stewardship of their owner, Ralph C. Wilson, but should Mr. Wilson pass, or should he ever decide to sell the team, a new owner would have no alternative but to look to move the team.

I appreciate the hard work of former Commissioner Tagliabue in helping resolve some of these issues by placing Mr. Wilson and other small-market owners on the Qualifier Committee responsible for final interpretation of these and other issues. With Godell's help, I am hopeful that the league can resolve the revenue sharing issue and help its small-market teams remain in their respective cities.

I wish Commissioner Godell the best of luck and success in his new position and I look forward to working with him in the future.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM OSKAR GOGGINS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William Oskar Goggins for the kindness and influence he showed the world during his 43 years here.

Billy was born at St. Mary's Hospital in San Francisco, CA on Sunday, May 10, 1963—on Mother's Day. He was the first child of Patrick and Ute Goggins, both very well-known and respected individuals in the Bay Area and beyond.

From the hospital he was carried right into a civil rights demonstration in Golden Gate Park. Billy took his first trip to Ireland at 4 years old to meet his family relatives in the west of Ireland in County Mayo. Annual family trips by car to Montana and Dakota included reunions in the Bear's Paw Mountains, hi-balling on the Iron Road, the old Great Northern Railway and running brave with Chippewa, Cree, Blackfoot and Sioux Indian friends. The Goggins' adventured on 2-month road trips to Baja and the Pacific Coast of Mexico where mother Ute painted, and sisters Cathy and Aimee followed in Bill's energetic footsteps. Billy toiled in family vineyards in Germany with equally embracing relatives. These things were the soul of his education.

Over the years Bill played soccer, drew cartoons, tutored younger students from Mill Valley and Marin City, played volleyball at Stinson Beach, surfed in Bolinas, and much more. He graduated from Tamalpais High School as a National Merit Scholar and Salutatorian.

Summer jobs were at Bancroft-Whitney legal publishers, San Francisco and Wausau Paper Mill, Wisconsin. He worked at numerous restaurants including the Book Depot Café and Avenue Grill in Mill Valley, and Embark in San Francisco. He also volunteered at St. Anthony Dining Room in the Tenderloin, providing free meals for the homeless.

Bill attended Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and San Francisco State University, Departments of Communication and Philosophy. He began his vital journalism career with Frisko Kids, KALW radio, and then moved on to the old SF Weekly.

Former SF Weekly editor and colleague Andrew O'Hehir remembers, "Of course he worked harder than anyone and became essential, and in 3 years moved from all-purpose intern to copy editor to running the Arts and Entertainment section. I can't remember exactly when he became the go-to guy for headline copy, but I'd say that by the time he'd been there a year, he was writing half the heads in the paper."

Bill thrived at Wired for 10 years. He started as a freelance copy editor and rose to become deputy editor. Bill served as a special link between the digital industry's pace-setting magazine in the center of San Francisco's media gulch and an eager, educated national and international readership. His colleagues admired him tremendously.

"Bill was that rarest of things: a true original," says Chris Anderson, the magazine's editor in chief. "He was brilliant, witty and culturally omnivorous, all of which combined in